



**SUBMITTED TO: General Law Committee**  
**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY:**  
**Corrie Burdick, Category Manager**  
**February 8, 2011**

**RE: Senate Bill 864;**

Good Afternoon, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Corrie Burdick and I am the Category Manager for Drake Petroleum Co that operates 37 Xtramart convenience stores and owns an additional 14 convenience stores that we lease to other operators in the State of Connecticut. Our corporate office is in N. Grosvenordale, CT and we have 407 employees in the State. In fact, behind me are many members of our Connecticut team from various cities including Dayville, Norwich, Jewett City, Plainfield, Pomfret, Ashford, Willington, Somers, Manchester, East Haven, Plainville and Seymour.

On behalf of Xtramart, I am here to ask for your favorable vote of Senate Bill 864; An Act concerning Grocery Store Beer Permits. If you pass this bill consumers would benefit as they would have more options and our convenience store businesses would be on a more level playing field with the rest of the industry.

Under current law many convenience stores do not qualify to sell beer because the law requires these stores to primarily sell food items and gasoline sales directly affect a store's eligibility. This law appears out of date since it was adopted prior to convenience stores selling gasoline.

We believe convenience stores should be eligible for Grocery Store Beer Permit Licenses and should not be excluded because of the inclusion of fuel sales.

We believe that the consumer is denied convenience and our businesses are unfairly excluded from making these sales. A majority of states in the northeast allow convenience stores to sell beer.

Xtramart values its business relationship with the State and feels the State will benefit greatly by passing this bill. If this bill passes, we estimate each of our stores' sales would increase by \$175,000 annually resulting in increased tax revenues to this State. We believe these customers are also likely to purchase additional products resulting in additional revenues for the State.

Connecticut ranks 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in beer consumption per capita according to the Beer Institute in Washington D.C. which represents the industry before Congress, state legislatures and public forums across the country. Our customers are inconvenienced by being precluded from access to these purchases, our stores are losing potential sales and the State is losing revenue by not allowing convenience stores to sell beer.

For the many points that I've raised, Xtramart and Drake Petroleum Co., Inc. asks you to pass SB 864 and I thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corrie Burdick".

Corrie Burdick